

# SNAP

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly the Food Stamp Program)





# What is SNAP?

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- ❑ SNAP is a nutrition assistance program designed to help individuals and families with low-income buy and consume nutritious foods.
- ❑ Nationwide standards for eligibility and benefits create a national nutrition safety net for low-income families and individuals wherever they live.

# Who may be eligible?

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- ❑ SNAP is available to nearly any low income US citizen or legal immigrant\*
- ❑ SNAP is available to anyone regardless of age, disability, or employment status.
- ❑ There is no time limit on the length of time a person may receive this help as long as they continue to meet the program's eligibility criteria.

\* Some restrictions may apply

# Legal Immigrants May Be Eligible for SNAP:

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Non-citizens have to prove their legal status in the USA.

- Legal immigrants must wait 5 years before getting SNAP benefits, with some exceptions:
  - ▣ There is no wait for legal immigrant children under 18.
  - ▣ There is no wait for some elderly and disabled.
  - ▣ There is no wait for refugees and asylees.
- Some legal immigrants may get SNAP benefits if they have enough work history.
- Some may be eligible if they have a military connection.

## More on non-citizens:

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- ❑ Income eligible US citizen children of ineligible alien parents may qualify for SNAP even if the parents do not.
- ❑ Getting SNAP will not hurt a person's chances of becoming a naturalized US citizen, if they are documented.



# Basic Requirements for SNAP

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- ❑ File an application (online or in person)
- ❑ Provide proof of the applicant's identity
- ❑ Provide proof of address
- ❑ Provide SSN for all people in the SNAP household
- ❑ Provide proof of immigration status
- ❑ Provide proof of income (meet income criteria)
- ❑ Discuss expenses (shelter, medical, dependent care)
- ❑ Meet resource requirements – cannot exceed:
  - \$2,000 for a single individual or family
  - \$3,250 if there is a household member is over 60 or disabled

# How do people apply for SNAP?

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## □ Online applications:



- Go to -**WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/DFS/APPLY**
- Click "*Apply Online through CommonHelp*"
- Create a user name and password.
- Complete and submit the application.

## □ In person applications:

- Visit the DFS office nearest you, or
- Call 703-324-7500 to request an application

# How does it work?

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- Upon approval, participating families or individuals receive an EBT card (Electronic Benefit Transfer) with the SNAP benefits in it. The amount of benefits that is put on the card depends on:
  - How much money the family has
  - How many people in the household
  - Some of the household expenses
  
- The EBT card works like a debit card, except that it can only be used to buy food at the grocery store.





# Income Guidelines

- \* Some income deductions are used to arrived at “Net Income”
  - Example – shelter, day care, and utility expenses
- \* Income is prorated for ineligible household members
  - Example – undocumented or ineligible parents

Household Size	Gross Income Maximum	*Net Income Maximum
1	\$ 1,174	\$ 903
2	1,579	1,215
3	1,984	1,526
4	2,389	1,838
5	2,794	2,150
6	3,200	2,461
7	3,605	2,773
8	4,010	3,085
Each additional member	+406	+312

# Benefits Amounts (Maximum)

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People in Household	Maximum Monthly Allotment*
1	\$ 200
2	\$ 367
3	\$ 526
4	\$ 668
5	\$ 793
6	\$ 952
7	\$ 1,052
8	\$ 1,202
Each additional person	\$ 150

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\*(October 2011 through September 2012)



# WHAT HAPPENS AFTER AN APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED?

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- ❑ The applicant is contacted by phone the same day or the next working day to review the application.
- ❑ A worker will attempt to verify the clients' eligibility for assistance the same day, if possible.
- ❑ If verification is readily available, eligibility will be determined immediately.
- ❑ If some eligibility elements can't be determined the same day, the applicant will be asked to provide specific information to determine their eligibility.
  - The sooner the information is returned to the office, the sooner eligibility is determined
  - Information can be submitted via email at **DFSmycase@fairfaxcounty.gov**.
  - Can also be mailed to us, faxed, or deposited in the agency's drop box

# What Documents Are Needed?

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- ❑ These are some of the documents that can be used to verify eligibility:
  - Photo ID, passport, driver's license
  - Lease, rent or mortgage receipt (to verify residency)
  - Social Security Number(s) of each HH member
  - Permanent Resident Cards, I-94, USCIS letter
  - Pay stubs, bookkeeping records, tax returns, letter from employer
- \*Other documents can be used, discuss this with a worker if some documents are not readily available*



# WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

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- ❑ Although SNAP rules require that we give clients an answer about their application within 7 days for emergency SNAP or 30 days for other situations, we make every effort to determine eligibility in the shortest amount of time possible (the same day if possible).
- ❑ Clients receive a notice in the mail letting them know whether their application was approved and how much.
- ❑ Clients receive an EBT Card
- ❑ Agency conducts periodic reviews to determine participant's continued eligibility for SNAP
  - Annually for most people
  - Six Month Interim Reporting – (very important!) Failure to submit an interim report on time would cause the case to close.

# Using SNAP


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- ❑ SNAP benefits are deposited on the EBT card once a month.
- ❑ SNAP can be used at grocery stores and local Farmer's Markets
- ❑ SNAP benefits can be used to purchase food for the household to eat such as:
  - Fruits and vegetables
  - Meats, fish, and poultry
  - Dairy products
  - Seeds and plants which produce food for the household to eat


# CommonHelp

## *Helping Those in Need*

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 **CommonHelp**  
helping those in need


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**Starts the customer's application process**

CommonHelp is the central, easy way to apply for and get help with assistance in Virginia.

See if you can get help with food, child care, energy, medical and cash assistance.

**Apply for Benefits Now** 

**Am I Eligible** 

**Sign In**

Do you have a CommonHelp account? Sign in to check on or continue your application. If not, [apply now](#).

**User ID**

User ID must be entered.

**Password**

Password must be entered.

[Sign In](#) [Forgot your password?](#)

Click **HERE** to continue.

# CommonHelp

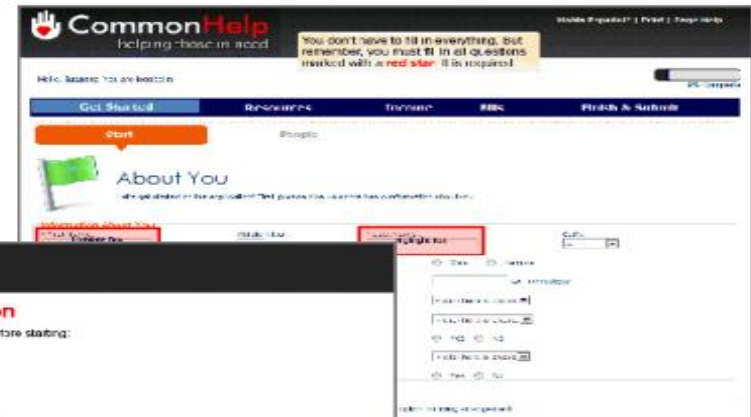
## *Helping Those in Need*



Habla Español? | Print | Page Help

### Video Introduction

It covers what the application process will look like and what information they'll need to submit an application.





# CommonHelp

## *Helping Those in Need*

The screenshot displays the Virginia.gov CommonHelp website. At the top, the navigation bar includes "Virginia.gov", "Online Services", "Agencies", "Governor", and "Help". A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main header features the CommonHelp logo with the tagline "helping those in need". A yellow callout box states: "The Am I Eligible tool, the video, and the application are available in Spanish." A red box highlights the "Hable Español?" link, with a white arrow pointing to it. The "Sign In" section includes a sign-in button, a "Forgot your password?" link, and a "Sign In" button. The "Sign In" form has fields for "User ID" and "Password", both with "User ID must be entered" and "Password must be entered" error messages. The "Am I Eligible" section features a button labeled "Am I Eligible ?". The "Apply for Benefits Now" section features a button labeled "Apply for Benefits Now". A yellow callout box at the bottom right says: "Click HERE to continue."

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**CommonHelp**  
helping those in need

The Am I Eligible tool, the video, and the application are available in Spanish.

Hable Español? | Sign in | Help |

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[Apply for Benefits Now](#)

[Am I Eligible ?](#)

Click [HERE](#) to continue.

# Questions About SNAP?

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## □ Contact SNAP Outreach Worker

■ Griselda Alayon

galayo@fairfaxcounty.gov

571-242-8189



Putting Healthy Food  
Within Reach